

It Was Easy to Spy in Washington, Swedish Agent for Russia Found

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From News Dispatches

STOCKHOLM, May 26 (AP)—Swedish Air Force Col. Stig Wennerstrom has lifted the veil on the methods he used as a spy for Russia in Washington.

Wennerstrom, who is awaiting sentencing on espionage charges here, told of meeting contacts in Washington's streets and parks and in the Pentagon, of warning signals and of the ease of escaping detection amid the crush of the city's diplomatic society.

His testimony in a pre-trial investigation was released today in a censored, 600-page police report.

"It was easy to get information if you indicated you were interested in buying," the 57-year-old airman-diplomat told Swedish investigators.

Was Triple Agent

"This was no problem for me as I made purchases for the Swedish Air Force. The Air Force bought a great deal of material from the United States, and I visited many industries. It was easy to make contact with the top executives."

Wennerstrom was Sweden's air attache in Washington from 1952 to 1957. When he came to Washington he already had become first a double agent and then a triple agent, selling secrets at different times to Britain, Russia and the United States.

In the testimony released today he said he met his spy contacts in streets and parks in Washington. "Sometimes I gave material to my contact in the Pentagon when we were there together on a group visit or when we met on a plane on a duty trip," he said. His testimony was not explicit on the identities of the contacts.

Little Danger

Wennerstrom said there were code signs for meetings. "It was all very simple. The left hand was always to be swinging freely. If you had anything to carry, you kept it in the right hand. If there was any danger, you immediately put your left hand in your pocket. This meant the contact man was not to show any sign of recognition."

He said there was little danger of being shadowed in Washington "because the diplomatic corps is so terribly big. They could not shadow everybody at the Eastern embassies. They had to be content with random checks."

Wennerstrom said he photographed documents on special film which could be developed only in Moscow. He took the pictures in his office with a red warning light to let him know when anyone was coming in, the report said.

Wennerstrom said he had obtained good contacts with the U.S. "intelligence service" during his assignment in Moscow previously.

He added that the Americans were very eager to get his help in evaluating incoming intelligence reports. He also was allowed to visit the headquarters of a technical branch of the intelligence service, he said.

Contacts in Pentagon

Wennerstrom said information on Polaris submarines was among material he turned over to Moscow. On one occasion in Washington, he said, the Russians asked him to find out whether the Americans were preparing for a pre-emptive strike against them. He was able to clear this up to the Russians' satisfaction, the report said without elaborating.

He told of supplying Russian intelligence with certain information on the U.S. Strategic Air Force and its nuclear

capability. The sources of this information "were different contacts in the Pentagon of whom I remember at least one... the head of the American intelligence service at that time."

[In Washington the Defence Department said there was no one in the Pentagon in 1952 who could have been referred to correctly as "the head of the American intelligence service."]

Wennerstrom also told of visiting Canada "four or five times" because Moscow was interested in how the Canadian Air Force had organized its training camp for North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries.

The report indicated that he tipped off the Russians about American plans to land troops in Lebanon in 1958.